

## **MINUTES**

### **State Board of Education (SBE) Innovation and Finance Committee Meeting**

#### **Date**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

#### **Time**

**11:00 a.m.**

#### **Location**

**Room 1000, Rutledge Building  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201**

***Tom Ewart, Chair***

***Mellanie B. Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)  
Staff Liaison to the Committee***

### **I. Welcome and Determination of a Quorum**

Chair Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, opened the Innovation and Finance (IF) Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Committee members present were Richard Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Jane Harmon, Seventh Judicial Circuit; and Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit. Traci Young Cooper, EdD, State Board Chair, also attended the meeting.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attending the meeting were Mellanie Jinnette, CFO, Office of Finance; Scott Winburn, Deputy General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Kim Moss, Minutes Taker; and Barbara Clarke, Back-up Minutes Taker.

### **II. Recognition of Visitors and News Media**

There were no visitors or news media in attendance.

### **III. Approval of Committee Minutes for August 12, 2015**

Mr. Griffith made a motion to approve the minutes for August 12, 2015. Ms. Harmon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**IV. Approval of Committee Agenda for September 9, 2015**

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the agenda for the September 9, 2015, IF Committee meeting. Mr. Griffith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**V. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**VI. Board Items**

**FOR APPROVAL**

- 01. Technology/Device Pilot (FY 2015–16 Proviso 1A.72)**—Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance

The committee was provided with a copy of the device pilot summary requests and a spreadsheet showing the amount requested. Last year, only six districts applied for this pilot program, and they were all awarded funds. This year there were thirty-two school districts that submitted implementation plans. There is \$4.5 million in non-recurring funds, but we had \$29 million in requests. The purpose of the proviso is to allow districts to purchase one-to-one digital devices, digital content, and provide professional development, and up to six school districts may be selected. We were able to fund the six school districts their full request this year. Upon school board approval, a certification form and a detailed implementation plan had to be submitted to the SCDE by a designated deadline. A selection committee within the agency was formed to evaluate each implementation plan. The committee consisted of Dr. Sheila Quinn, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; Don Cantrell, CIO; Bradley Mitchell, Director, Office of Virtual Education; Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Section; and Mellanie Jinnette, CFO. Selection Committee members were provided a copy of each district's implementation plan for review and were asked to select six to approve funding. The committee then reviewed the plans together to see where they crossed over on the selection process.

Additional information was discussed about the need for technology professional development for educators. There is an allocation of \$4 million to be used specifically for technology education for teachers. The agency has also been allowed by proviso to hold back some of the \$29 million allocated to build infrastructure and broadband for school districts. Technical assistance will be provided to some of the small districts that are having difficulty connecting to

broadband. Consulting and contracting services will be provided by retired district IT directors to assist smaller school districts with technology issues.

Mrs. Jinnette stated that the school districts must provide the agency an implementation plan in December and then it is submitted to the legislature.

Mr. Kizer made the motion that the SBE approve district technology/device pilot implementation plans for Clarendon School District One, Florence County School District Two, Laurens County School District Fifty-Six, Lexington County School District Three, Lexington County School District Four, and Saluda County School District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Griffith.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

**02. Financial Update for Fiscal Year 2015–16**—Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance

Ms. Jinnette reported that \$10,000 has been set aside in the Board's budget to use for special projects. The Board supported The Riley Institute last year and S.C. Future Minds. The biggest expenditures that the Board has are contractual services for hearing officers of teacher cases and travel expenditures for members of the Board.

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

By consensus of the committee, Item IF-01 was placed on the consent agenda.

## **VIII. Other Business**

Mr. Winburn, Deputy General Counsel, mentioned that at the last committee meeting it was discussed as to whether there should be a threshold for property disposals. He researched this, and some states do have a threshold for board approval of property disposals. The statute dates back to 1952 during the time of desegregation when the school building program was booming. The property disposals are approved through the local school board before being presented to the State Board.

Chair Traci Young Cooper commented that she would like to see the State Board use digital portals in conducting business. She asked if it could be built into the budget for next year. Mrs. Jinnette stated that additional funds could be requested in next year's budget or funds could be requested through a joint resolution that will allow the Board to be more current with technology. The Budget Request for FY 2016–17 is due to the Governor's Office on October 1.

Mr. Griffith made the motion that the CFO develop a proposal for the upgrading of technology for the State Board of Education. Ms. Harmon seconded the motion.

<b>IX. Adjournment</b>
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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.